

Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for February 12, 2020

Call to Order: 7:32 pm

Attendees:

Members: Cakky Evans (CE), Michele Kaczalek (MK), Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), Andrea Soo (AS), Jim Webb (JW)

Associate Members: Neal Gale (NG)

Others Present: Jordan Brunette (District Director/4th Senate District of Senator Art Haywood), Nick Macelko (former EAC volunteer), Ashley McIlvaine (AM, AT Communications Manager)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the January 2020 meeting were approved.
2. **Amendments to the Agenda** – No changes
3. **Reports:**
 - A. Chairperson’s Report – Approved
 - B. Treasurer’s Report – Approved
4. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. Policy – Approved
 - B. Programs – Approved
 - C. Engagement – Approved
5. **Guest:** Jordan Brunette (JB), District Director from the Office of Senator Art Haywood, spoke to EAC on a variety of constituent services offered, provided updates on legislation/status of House/Senate Bills, and listened to our EAC priorities and concerns. Key points included:
 - Senator Haywood’s Top 12 2019 Accomplishments
 - [The People’s Budget: A Comprehensive Plan for PA](#)
 - Watershed restoration and protection programs
 - [DEP Grants, Loans, and Rebates](#) program summary with [Electronic Single Application \(ESA\)](#) system
 - EAC requesting support on educating the public on various environmental issues (proper recycling, SLF, energy conservation) as long as it is a district-wide benefit. JB requested an email summary of needs/concerns.
6. **Active Business**
 - A. **Sustainable Abington/[USGBC LEED for Cities Program](#):** On 2/11, the USGBC informed Abington Township that they were awarded a LEED for Cities grant in support of pursuing certification under the LEED for Cities and Communities rating system. Commissioner Thompson recommended that EAC assess other rating systems such as [WELL](#). The BOC will vote on whether to move forward with the recertification during the 2/13 BOC meeting.
 - B. **Comprehensive Plan Updates:** AM mentioned an environmental management chapter in the CP which aims to cover tree management, LEED strategy, and other sustainable practices. NG has also been working closely with Cheltenham Township on an Energy Transition Plan template to support the CP.
 - C. **Development Plan Reviews:** EAC will continue to monitor the Redstone at Baederwood Residential Development plan as there are still many unaddressed concerns regarding fire/emergency and stormwater management.
 - D. **Energy Initiatives:**
 - [CDP 2019 Cities Disclosure Questionnaire](#): No major discussion.
 - [Rf100 Updates](#) – No major discussion.
 - E. **Rain Barrel program:** KMR proposed RB workshop dates and respective volunteers for April, May, and June events.
 - F. **Abington-Jenkintown Connection Project:** AM mentioned McMahon Associates survey group will be meeting with AT tomorrow (2/13) to discuss “grey-to-green infrastructure” and potential funding for the multi-use corridor on Washington Lane, Jenkintown Road, Greenwood Avenue, and Meetinghouse Road.
 - G. **Bylaws review and discussion** – Terry Castorina, Executive Assistant to the Township Manager, will be reaching out to the EAC about updates to the bylaws.

7. **New Business:**

- A. **Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia (CCGP)** – CE discussed the benefits and responsibilities for the Township as a potential participating partner. AM requested that EAC provide a more quantitative summary of benefits, labor, and costs associated with being a CCGP partner.
- B. **Annual Report** – JW is seeking input from EAC members for the report by mid-March as he will be presenting it to the Public Affairs meeting in April.

8. **Citizens' Comments** – None to report.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm

Next Meeting – March 11, 2020

Acronym Key:

AT – Abington Township

CCGP - Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia

CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project

CP – Comprehensive Plan

DEP – Department of Environmental Protection

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

RB – Rain barrel

Rf100 – Ready for 100

SLF – Spotted Lantern Fly

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council